

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



✱ 5

story: ISAO MIURA

art: KOTARO YAMADA





Volume 5

Art by
Kotaro Yamada

Story by
Isao Miura

Character Design by
Luna



IT'S NO WONDER
LUKE HAS
BEEN SO
AFFECTED
BY HER.



SHE
SHINES SO
BRIGHTLY...
YOU CAN'T
HELP BUT
ADMIRE
HER.



WHAT AM
I DOING,
JUST
STANDING
HERE?

I FEEL SO
PATHETIC...



AM I GOING
TO LET
SOMEONE
ELSE
DECIDE
WHETHER
I LIVE
OR DIE?

AM I
GOING TO
SPEND MY
WHOLE LIFE
HIDING IN A
CORNER?

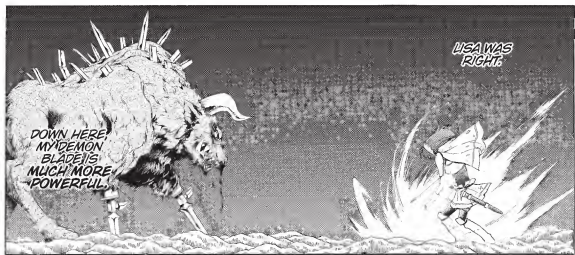


Chapter

18

Monster

(Part 2)



AND I
THINK THAT
BENT AND
BROKEN
PINCLUSHION
THERE
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
HANDLE
MUCH
MORE...

FATIGUE
AND PAIN
HAD ME AT
MY LIMITS,
BUT NOW
ARIA'S
WIND IS
HELPING
ME STAY
UPRIGHT!

TAKE
THIS!

BLADE
OF
WIND!!



I HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
ABANDON
ANY DEFENSE
AND POUR
EVERYTHING
I HAVE
INTO THE
ATTACK!!

BECAUSE
I CAN'T!
MY BODY
WON'T
DO IT!





FLING

FLING

GUH!!

I...
I JUST
BROKE
SOMETHING...





THAT WAS
UNFAIR
AND
EASY,
AND I
WAS A
COWARD!

WELL,
I'M
SICK
OF
THAT!

WHENEVER
THINGS
GOT BAD,
I'D ALWAYS
JUMP
AND HIDE
BEHIND
SOMEBODY
ELSE...



I...
I...
I
CAN'T
ARGUE
W-
WITH
THAT!

BECAUSE
THIS
REALLY
IS
DUMB!

IDIOT
...



YEEP!



SO I'M
NOT
GOING TO,
ANYMORE.

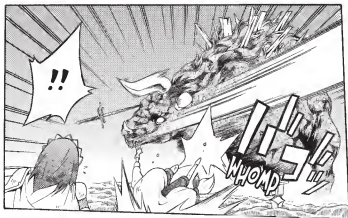
LUKE...
OOF...
LUKE
TOLD ME
TO STOP
HOLDING
BACK.



LISA
?!

BONK

JY



TH-THAT
WAS
NOTHING!
I-IT DIDN'T
HURT
AT ALL!



I'M
GONNA
BUTT IN
WHEN-
EVER
I
CAN!



MY
BODY CAN
BE A
WEAPON,
TOO!

I
STILL
HAVE
MY
BODY!



NO
...
I...
I CAN
STILL
FIGHT.



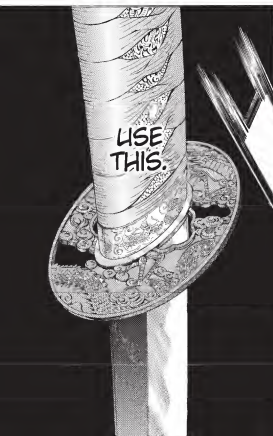
LISA,
STOP!
IT'S TOO
DANGER-
OUS!



**I'M
GONNA
CHANGE!**

**I'M
GONNA
FIGHT
FOR
MY-
SELF!**

**AND I'M
GONNA
LIVE TO
GO HOME
TO LUKE,
NO
MATTER
WHAT!!**



YES,
SIR!



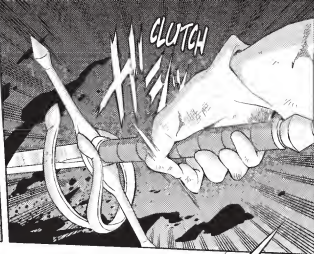
IT IS
ONE SHE
LEARNED
ACROSS
THREE
YEARS
OF HARD
WORK.



THE
MOTION
IS A
FAMILIAR
ONE.

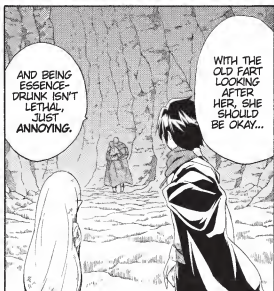
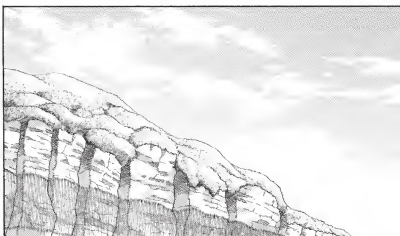








WE
HAVE TO
GET HER
MEDICAL
AID,
QUICKLY.







YOU'D IGNORE ME, AND THEN, SUDDENLY, TURN AROUND AND YELL AT ME LIKE YOU JUST REMEMBERED I WAS THERE...

YOU WERE REALLY, REALLY MEAN WHEN WE FIRST MET.

YOU MADE IT SO OBVIOUS THAT YOU HATED ME.



THAT'S WHAT I MEANT FROM THE BEGINNING.

AND NO, I WON'T BE MAD.



IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO BE BORN LOOKING LIKE MISS LISA, YOU KNOW!!

YOU'D NEVER EVEN LOOK AT ME!

I DID TAKE A LOT OUT ON YOU, YES. SORRY.



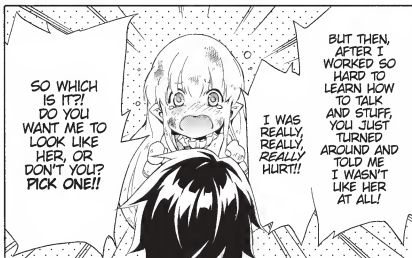
I'D JUST BEEN BORN AND ALL, SO I WASN'T GOOD AT WORDS AND STUFF YET. PLUS, I DID FEEL LIKE I OWED YOU A LOT.

SO I NEVER REALLY FELT LIKE I COULD TALK BACK AT YOU.

I DID, DIDN'T I? I'M SORRY.



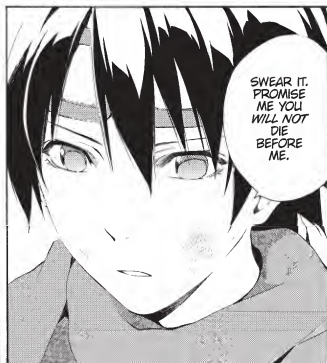
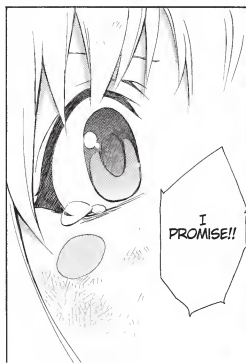
I'M SORRY ...

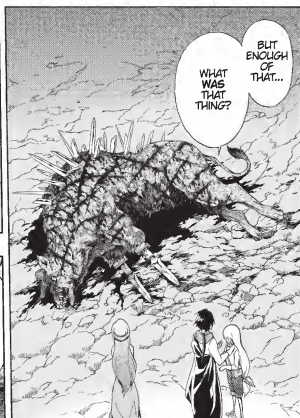


SO WHICH IS IT?! DO YOU WANT ME TO LOOK LIKE HER, OR DON'T YOU? PICK ONE!!

I WAS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HURT!!

BUT THEN, AFTER I WORKED SO HARD TO LEARN HOW TO TALK AND STUFF, YOU JUST TURNED AROUND AND TOLD ME I WASN'T LIKE HER AT ALL!







ARE YOU
CERTAIN
IT ISN'T
BECAUSE
YOU
NEED A
BATH?

WHAT?
DON'T
BE SO
RUDE!!



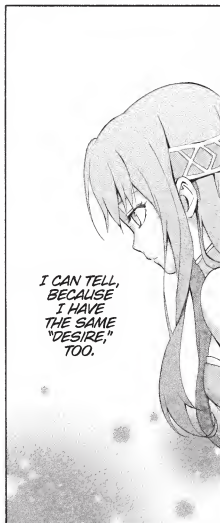
A
SMELL...?
WHAT
KIND?

OH YEAH!
I
REMEMBER
IT SAID
SOMETHING
ABOUT A
SMELL...

A
SMELL
FROM
ME.



THE
PROBLEM
THEN
BECOMES
WHO DID IT,
AND WHY
DID IT COME
HERE.



I CAN TELL,
BECAUSE
I HAVE
THE SAME
"DESIRE,"
TOO.



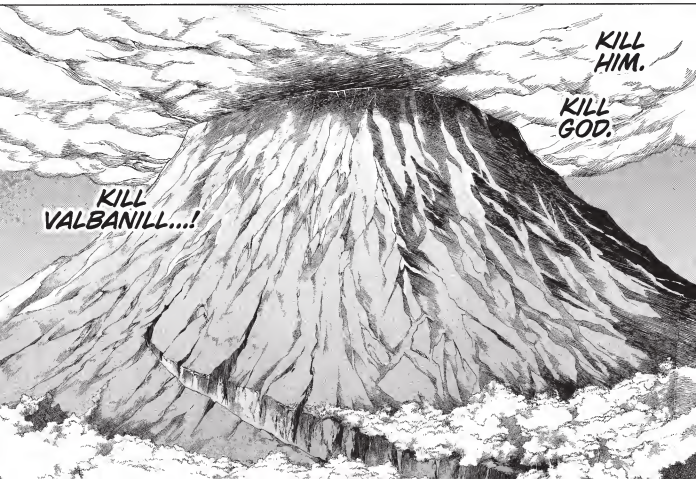
"WHY
DID IT
COME
HERE?"



YOU WANTED
TO SEE
VALBANILL...



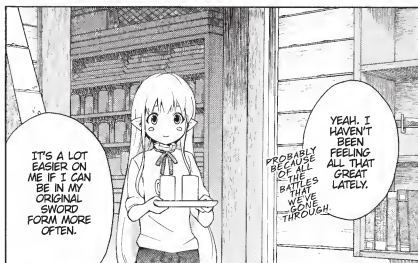
KILL
HIM.



KILL
VALBANILL....!

KILL
HIM.

KILL
GOD.



IT'S A LOT EASIER ON ME IF I CAN BE IN MY ORIGINAL SWORD FORM MORE OFTEN.

PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ALL THE BATTLES THAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH.

YEAH. I HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING ALL THAT GREAT LATELY.



YOU WANT A SHEATH?



PLEASE MAKE ME A SHEATH!

BUT MAKING CECILY WALK AROUND WITH A BARED SWORD IS, WELL... YOU KNOW.

SO YEAH...

GODS...

DON'T ANY OF YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORD "RESTRAINT" MEANS?



Chapter

19

Sheath

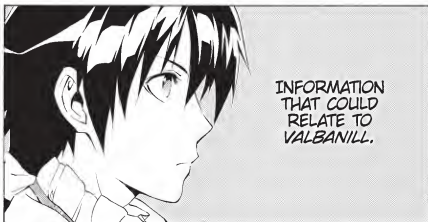
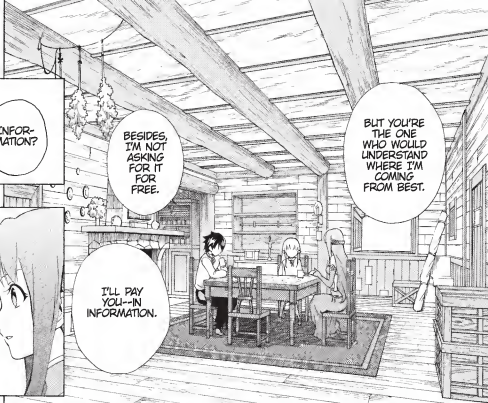


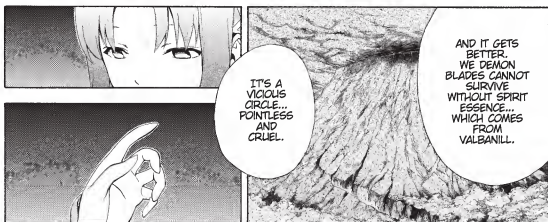
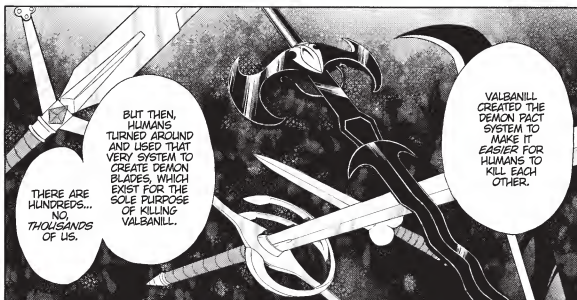
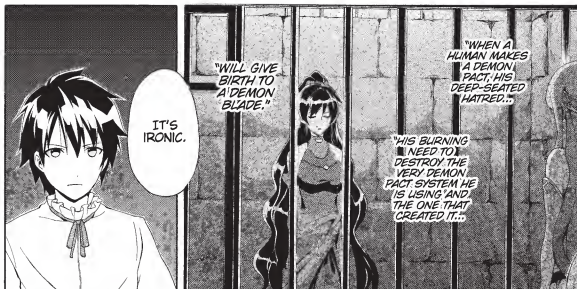
BESIDES,
I'M NOT
ASKING
FOR IT
FOR FREE.

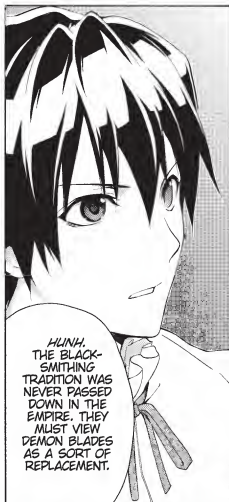
BUT YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO WOULD
UNDERSTAND
WHERE I'M
COMING
FROM BEST.



I'LL PAY
YOU--IN
INFORMATION.







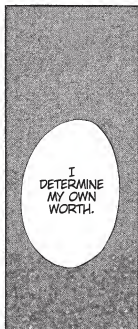
HUINH.
THE BLACK-SMITHING
TRADITION WAS
NEVER PASSED
DOWN IN THE
EMPIRE. THEY
MUST VIEW
DEMON BLADES
AS A SORT OF
REPLACEMENT.



BUT MY
POINT IS
THIS.

THAT IS
WHY THE
EMPIRE
HAS COME
AFTER ME
SO MANY
TIMES.

DEMON
BLADES
HAVE THE
ABILITY TO
STAND UP
AGAINST
VALBANILL.



I
DETERMINE
MY OWN
WORTH.

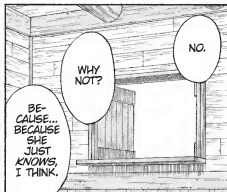


"YOU
ARE A
BLADE
MEANT
TO
PROTECT
LIVES,
NOT TAKE
THEM!"

"YOU
ARE
NOT ANY
SUCH
FOUL
THING!"



UN
HAS
MISS
CECILY
HEARD
ANY OF
THAT?



NO.

WHY
NOT?

BE-
CAUSE...
BECAUSE
SHE
JUST
KNOWS,
I THINK.



I NEED
TO FIGHT,
SO I CAN
REACH MY
GOAL OF
TRULY
BECOMING
A SWORD
THAT
PROTECTS!

I HAVE
TO GO
OUT AND
FIGHT.

"DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
SAID?"

"LET'S LOSE
IT ALL
TOGETHER."



"WE'RE
ALREADY
PARTNERS,
LIKE."

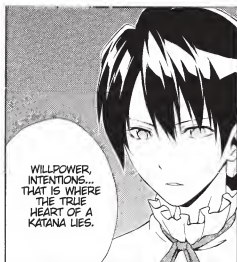


BUT I'M
SURE THEY
HAVE THEIR
OWN BATTLES
THEY'RE
FIGHTING.

I STILL DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THEY
MEAN BY
THAT...

"LOSING
IT ALL"
TOGETHER...







IN OTHER
WORDS,
IT IS EASY TO
CHANGE THE
MEANING ONE
ASSIGNS TO
A THING.

NOW
THAT'S
UNUSUAL
OF HIM!

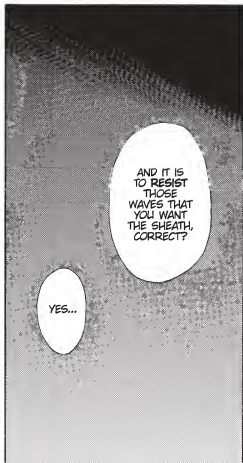
I DON'T KNOW
IF HE'S BEING
INSCRUTABLE...
OR IF HE'S JUST
SOFTENED UP
THAT MUCH.



DID HE
JUST
ATTEMPT
TO
COMFORT
ME?



WAIT...



AND IT IS
TO RESIST
THOSE
WAVES THAT
YOU WANT
THE SHEATH,
CORRECT?

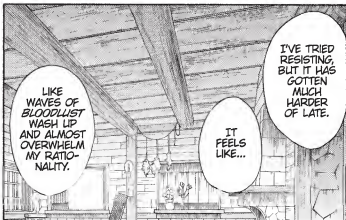
YES...



THE HATRED
THAT WAS
THE SEED OF
MY BIRTH
BINDS ME,
AND THERE
ISN'T MUCH
I CAN DO
ABOUT IT.

BUT
I'M NOT
SURE IT
IS REALLY
THAT
EASY.

UHM,
THANK
YOU
FOR THE
THOUGHT
...

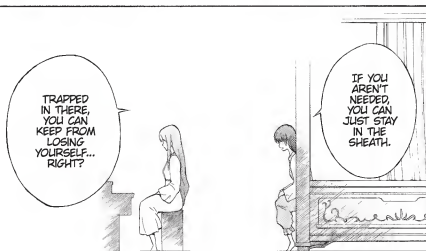


LIKE
WAVES OF
BLOODLUST
WASH UP
AND ALMOST
OVERWHELM
MY RATIO-
NALITY.

IT
FEELS
LIKE...

I'VE TRIED
RESISTING,
BUT IT HAS
GOTTEN
MUCH
HARDER
OF LATE.









Chapter

20

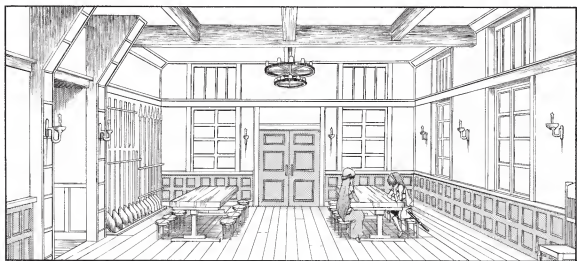
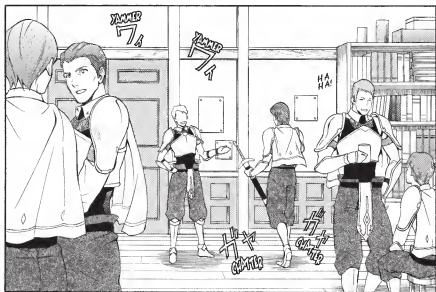
Fool

(Part 1)

THIRD DISTRICT —
PUBLIC OFFICES







PATTY BALDWIN

CITY CIVIL SERVANT.
A NON-COMBATANT
WHO CARRIES
OUT CIVIL AND
MEDICAL DUTIES.

PATTY!

IT IS NO
OVERSTATE-
MENT TO SAY
IT WAS YOUR
HELP AS A
HEALER THAT
ALLOWED ME
TO RETURN TO
MY DUTIES
THIS QUICKLY.

MUCH
BETTER.
I HAD
PLENTY
OF TIME
OFF TO
RECOVER.

AH, BUT
ANYWAY,
IT HAS
BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE I
LAST SAW
YOU. HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

I...
I DON'T
LIKE HIM
THAT
MUCH!

STOP
HARASSING
ME ON IT!

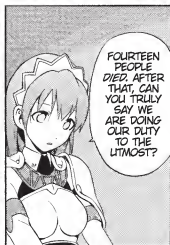
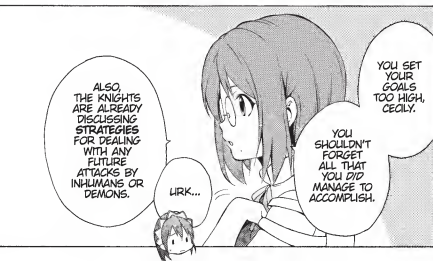
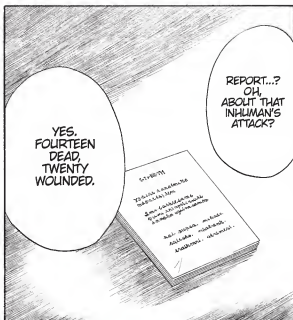
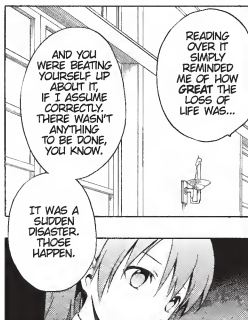
I WAS
JUST
WRITING
MY
REPORT,
ACTUALLY.

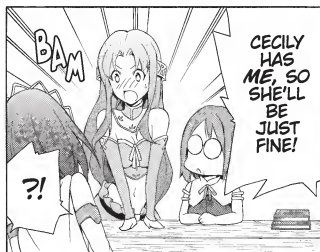
AH...
THAT.

BUT NEVER
MIND THAT...
YOU WERE
LOOKING
AWFULLY
GLOOMY A
MOMENT AGO.
WHAT IS IT?

CECILY
IS JUST
A STRUC-
TURABLE
THAT'S
ALL!

OH
REALLY?
I STILL
THINK YOU
"HEALED"
A LITTLE
TOO
QUICKLY.

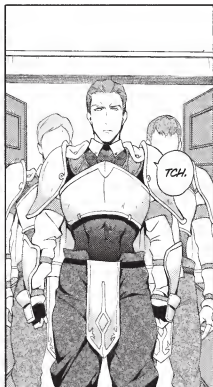








WHAT,
YOU'RE
BACK,
ALREADY?



TCH.



GRR



HAH!
WHAT
PROPER
WOMAN IS
PROUD OF
BEING A
ROCK?

YEAH. THE
ONLY THING
SHE HAS
GOING FOR
HER IS HER
TOUGH-
NESS.



YOU'VE
GOT A
POINT.

HELL,
THAT'S
NOT EVEN
HUMAN.

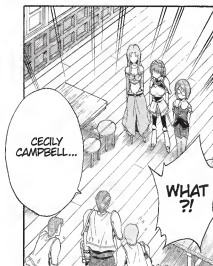
THAT
ISN'T A
WOMAN.



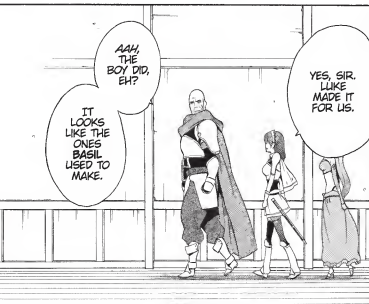
MY,
MY.

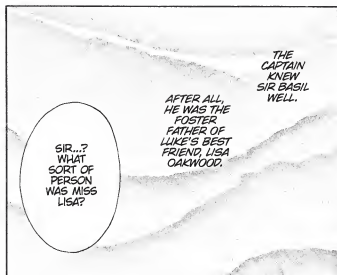
SHE
DESERVES
IT.

WHAT A
THING TO
SAY,
REGINALD.













SIEGFRIED
?!

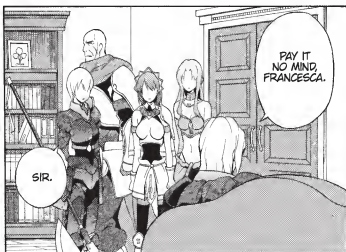


MIND
YOUR
TONGUE.





THE
REPORT
I
WROTE!



PAY IT
NO MIND,
FRANCESCA.

SIR.

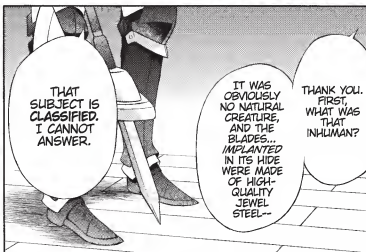
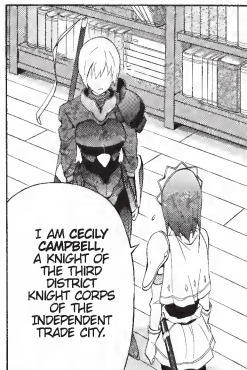


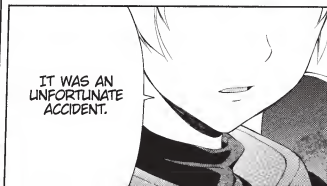
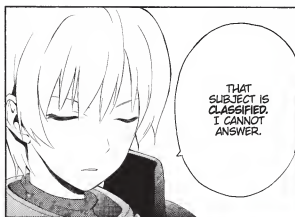
WHAT
ON
EARTH...?



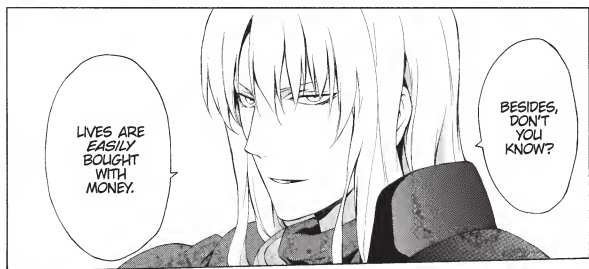
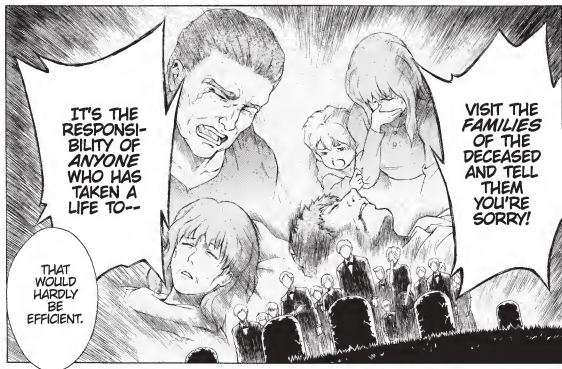
HE SAYS
IT WAS THE
PROPERTY
OF THE
EMPIRE.

SIR
SIEGFRIED
HAS
COME TO
RETRIEVE
THE
REMAINS
OF THE
INHUMAN.













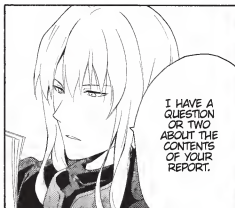
I WAS
RATHER PUT
OUT WHEN
THAT THIEF--
WHAT WAS
HER NAME?--
STOLE IT
FROM ME.

AH. THAT
IS MY
FAVORITE
SWORD.

RGH!



IT'S
EVADNE.

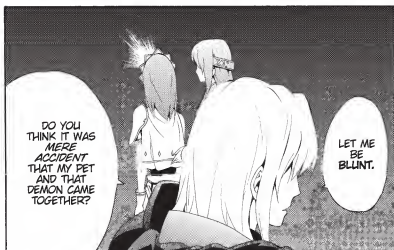


I HAVE A
QUESTION OR TWO
ABOUT THE
CONTENTS
OF YOUR
REPORT.



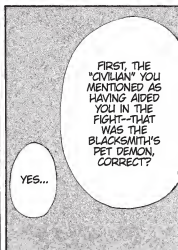
YOU
CALLED ME
FOR A
REASON.
WHAT
IS IT?

ENOUGH
OF
THIS.



DO YOU
THINK IT WAS
MERE
ACCIDENT
THAT MY PET
AND THAT
DEMON CAME
TOGETHER?

LET ME
BE
BLUNT.

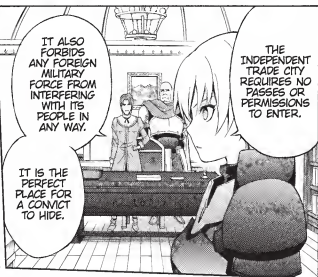


FIRST, THE
"CIVILIAN" YOU
MENTIONED AS
HAVING AIDED
YOU IN THE
FIGHT--THAT
WAS THE
BLACKSMITH'S
PET DEMON,
CORRECT?

YES...



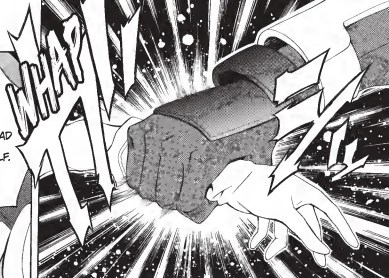






FRANCESCA KNOWS
WHAT HE
LOOKS LIKE.
SEARCHING
FOR HIM IS
HER JOB.

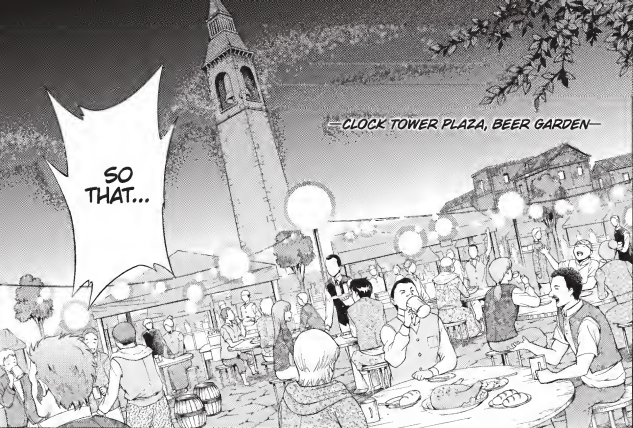
DON'T
GET AHEAD
OF
YOURSELF.



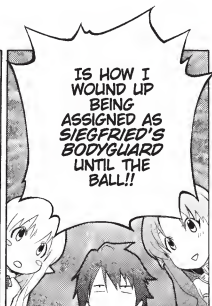
I WILL
HAVE YOU,
WOMAN,
BE MY
BODYGUARD.

I THINK,
UNTIL
THE NIGHT
OF THE
"BALL"...

WHILE
SHE IS
DOING
THAT...



 Chapter 21 Fool (Part 2)



STARTING
TOMORROW,
I'M STUCK
WITH HIM
ALL DAY,
EVERY
DAY!!

HE'S
DOING IT
JUST
TO GET
ON MY
NERVES!
I KNOW
HE IS!!

ARRRGH!!
JUST WHO
DOES THAT
JERK
THINK
HE IS?!

AHA
HA HA
HA!

DAMN IT!!
MY MUG
IS STILL
SOMEONE'S
BRING
POKER!

SLAM

YOU'RE
A MAD
DRUNK, EH?
ISN'T
THIS
YOUR
FIRST
TIME
DRINKING

DIDN'T LUKE
TURN INTO
A PENNY-
PINCHING
MISER
BECAUSE HE
WAS POOR?!

WAIT
MINUTE

HOW
?!

OH,
SINCE WE
WORK ON
FORGING
SACRED
BLADES,
THE CITY
PROVIDES
US WITH
GRANT
FUNDING.

AHA
HA HA
HA!

WHO
ARE YOU
CALLING A
MISER?!

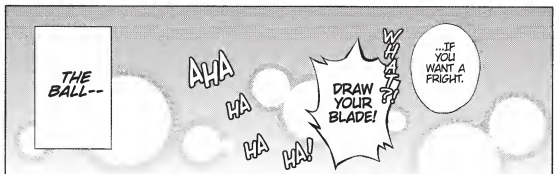
HA.
SMOKING
SOME
ALONG WITH
A DRINK IS
A HABIT
OF MINE.

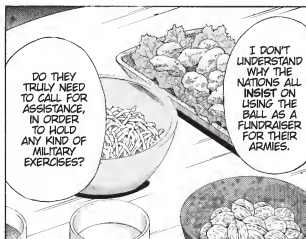
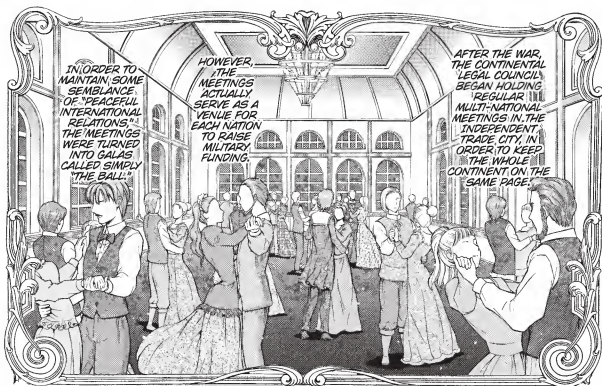
WANT ME
TO PUT
IT OUT?

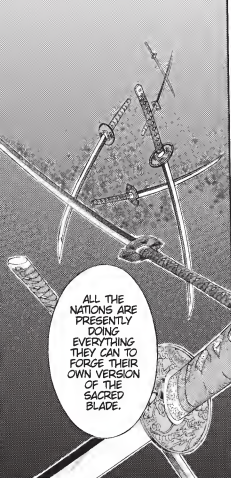
NO...

I WAS JUST
SURPRISED
YOU COULD
BUY ANY

IS
THAT...
TOBACCO?







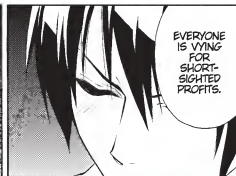
ALL THE NATIONS ARE PRESENTLY DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO FORGE THEIR OWN VERSION OF THE SACRED BLADE.



HELL, THE CROWD POWERS HAVE EVEN DUBBED HIM "MACHINA."

AND BECAUSE IN WAR, ONE'S ACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS CAN TIE DIRECTLY INTO A GREATER SHARE OF THE SPOILS LATER...

THOUGH HE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS INHUMAN IN RECORDED HISTORY, VALBANILL'S ABILITY TO GENERATE SPIRIT ESSENCE NEAR INFINITELY MAKES HIM A VERY CONVENIENT CREATURE.



EVERYONE IS VYING FOR SHORT-SIGHTED PROFITS.



I'LL BE WITH YOU AT THE BALL, AND I'LL MAKE SURE NO NASTY LEECHES GET ANYWHERE NEAR YOU THE WHOOLE TIME!

DON'T WORRY, CECILY!

NOW, COME ON. LET'S HAVE ANOTHER DRINK!



ISN'T WAR SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT FIGHTING TO BRING PEACE?

DISGUSTING.



YOU'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
MAKE SOME
COMPRO-
MISES,
YOU KNOW.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
AREN'T TRYING
TO EVALUATE
EVERYTHING
ON YOUR OWN
PERSONAL,
INDIVIDUAL
LEVEL?



THANKS.

I'M GLAD
YOU'LL BE
THERE.



HEY.

STILL...
WHAT IS
THERE TO
BE PROUD
OF, BY
ATTENDING
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?



HUH
...?



I
KNOW
THAT!!



YOU'RE
OVER-
THINKING
THINGS.

WHY'S
THAT
AN INSULT?

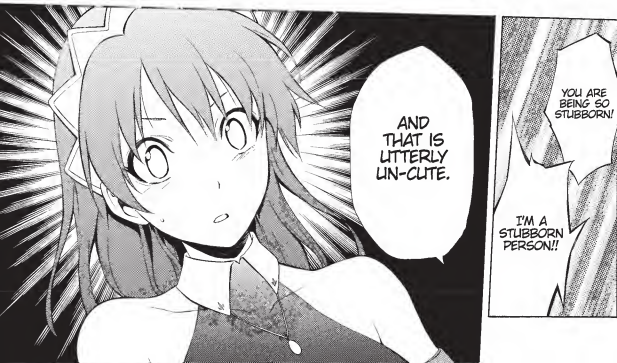
YOU THINK
YOU CAN
HAVE AN
IMPACT ON
FAR MORE
THINGS
THAN YOU
ACTUALLY
CAN.

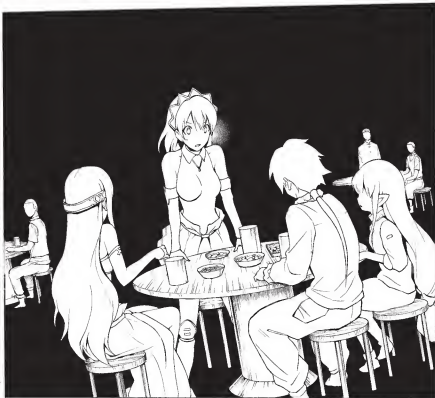
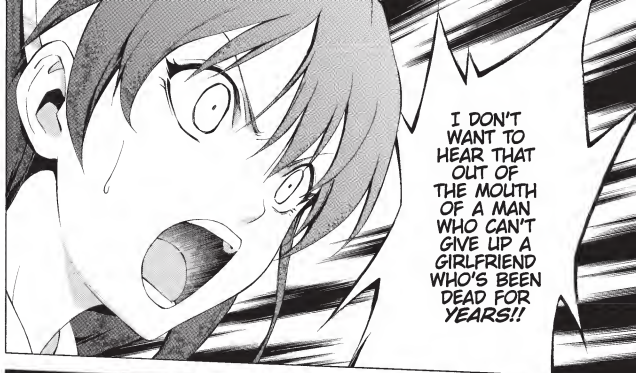


YOU
GLORIFY
YOUR
JOB FAR
TOO
MUCH.

WHAT
?!

ARE YOU...
INSULTING
ME--
INSULTING
THE WHOLE
KNIGHT
CORPS?!





A close-up of a young man with short, spiky hair and a ruffled collar. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side.

ONE
WOMAN IS
ENOUGH
FOR A
MAN TO
LOVE IN
HIS
LIFETIME.

A small figure of a woman in a dress standing in a dark, textured space. She is looking towards the viewer.

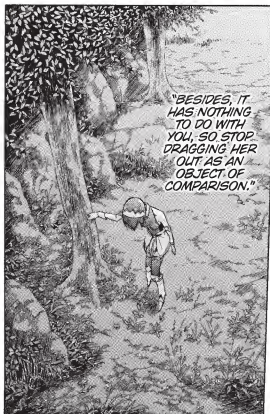
BESIDES, IT
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
YOU, SO STOP
DRAGGING
HER OUT AS
AN OBJECT OF
COMPARISON.

WHAT IS
WRONG
WITH
HOLDING
ON TO
THAT?

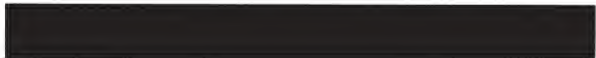
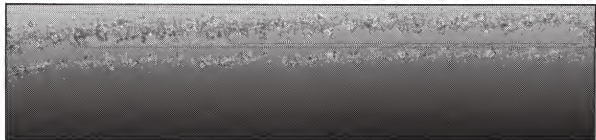
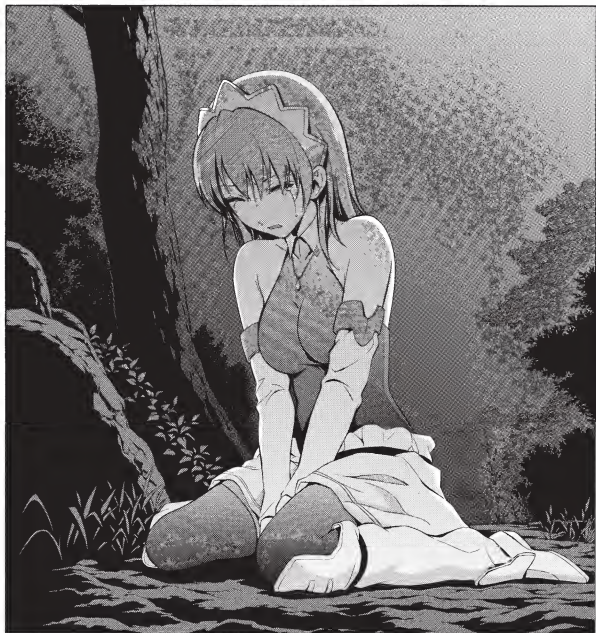
"SHE WILL
BE A
FORMIDABLE
OPPONENT.
YOU WILL
NEED TO
PROCEED
CAREFULLY."



CECILY?!



"...LIN-
CLITE."







AND COMING TO
WORK IN THE
MORNING WITH
NOTICEABLE
BODY ODOR...
UGH! WHAT
HORRIBLE
SELF-DISCIPLINE
ON MY PART.

TOH!

TOH!

IS THIS
WHAT THE
FABLED
"HANGOVER"
FEELS
LIKE?

MY HEAD
IS
POUNDING,
FIT TO
BURST...



I MET THAT
BLACK DEMON
BLADE WHEN
CHARLOTTE
WAS
HERE.

THINGS...
HAPPENED.
I DON'T
WANT TO
TALK WITH
HER.



CECILY



I'M
SORRY,
BUT I'M
GOING TO
SPEND
TODAY
IN MY
SHEATH.



ARIA,
ABOUT
YESTERDAY...

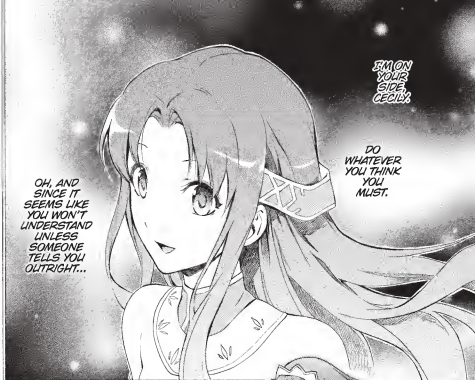


I'M SORRY,
BUT IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS,
CALL
FOR ME,
OKAY?

I NEED TO
HAVE MORE
CONFIDENCE
BEFORE
I FACE
HER AGAIN,
AND THAT
WILL TAKE
TIME.



OH, AND SINCE IT
SEEMS LIKE
YOU WON'T
UNDERSTAND
UNLESS
SOMEONE
TELLS YOU
OLTRIGHT...





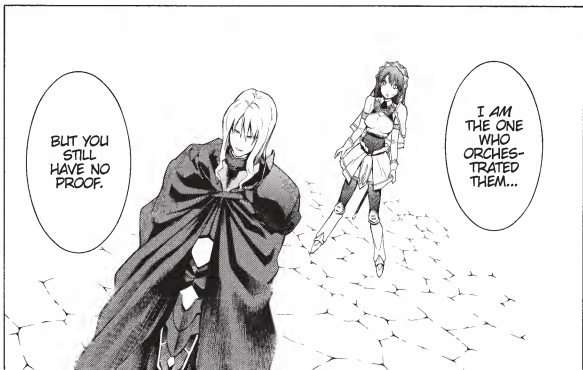


I
AM.



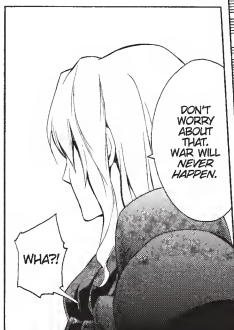
WHAT DO
YOU WANT
WITH ARIA?!
WHAT
ARE YOU
PLOTING?!

SO YOU
ARE
AFTER
THE
DEMON
BLADES!



BUT YOU
STILL
HAVE NO
PROOF.

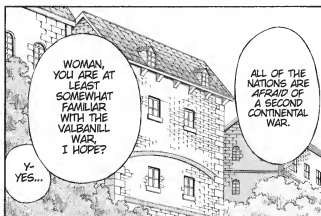
I AM
THE ONE
WHO
ORCHES-
TRATED
THEM...



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT.
WAR WILL
NEVER
HAPPEN.



WH-WHO
CARES
ABOUT
PROOF?!
WHAT YOU
DID COULD
HAVE
STARTED
A WAR!!



WOMAN,
YOU ARE AT
LEAST
SOMEWHAT
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
VALBANILL
WAR,
I HOPE?

Y-
YES...

ALL OF THE
NATIONS ARE
AFRAID OF
A SECOND
CONTINENTAL
WAR.



WHICH IS
PRECISELY
WHY IT
WON'T
HAPPEN.

IDIOT!

IF THE
BALANCE
IS TIPPED,
THE WHOLE
CONTINENT
WILL PLUNGE
INTO A WAR
LIKE THE
ONE FOUR
DECADES AGO!



LOOM

WHAT
...?!

YOU
REALLY
DON'T HAVE
MUCH OF
A BRAIN
RATTLING
AROUND IN
YOUR SKULL,
WOMAN.



SO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHY ALL THE
CONTINENTAL
LEADERS ARE
COMPLETE
COWARDS,
THEN.

HUH?

COWARDS



EVEN THE
LEADERS
OF THE
CONTINENT
STOOD IN
ONLY FRAGILE
BUBBLES OF
RELATIVE
SAFETY, SO
COMPLETE
WAS THE
CHAOS.

PANDEMO-
NIUM!!!

COUNTLESS
ACTS OF
VIOLENCE!

NEIGHBOR
LINCING
NEIGHBOR.

NEIGHBOR
DOUBTING
NEIGHBOR.

IGNORANT
PEASANTS
DECRYING
THE TRANS-
FORMATION
OF MAN
INTO BEAST
AS A
"CURSE"
FROM
GOD.

MONSTERS
KILLING
MONSTERS,
MAN
KILLING
MAN.

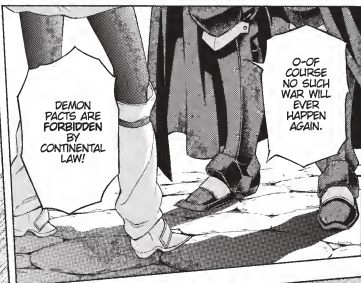
HORDES OF
MONSTERS
RAMPAGING
THROUGH
VILLAGES,
DEVOURING
ANY HUMAN
THEY CAN
CATCH.

USING
"CONSCRIPTION"
AS AN EXCUSE
TO FORCE
PEASANTS
INTO MAKING
DEMON
PACTS.

RIPPING THEM
OPEN TO
UNLEASH THE
DEMON INSIDE,
USING DRUGS
TO DRIVE
THEM INSANE,
AND THEN
LOOSENING
THEM
UPON THE
BATTLEFIELD.

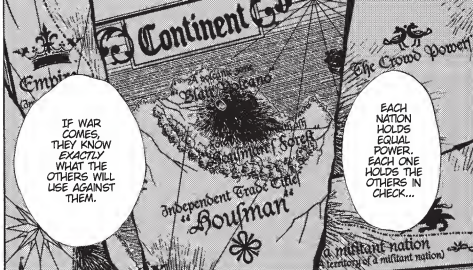
WHO
WOULD
WANT
ANOTHER
WAR LIKE
THAT?







OH
GODS...



IF WAR
COMES,
THEY KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT THE
OTHERS WILL
USE AGAINST
THEM.

EACH
NATION
HOLDS
EQUAL
POWER.
EACH ONE
HOLDS THE
OTHERS IN
CHECK...



EVEN THE
CONTINENTAL
LEGAL
COUNCIL....

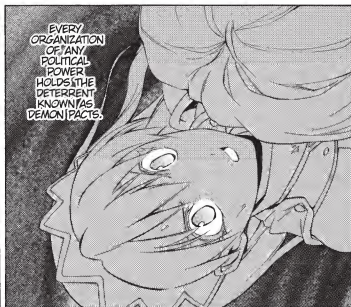
THE
MILITANT
NATION.

THE
CROWD
POWERS.

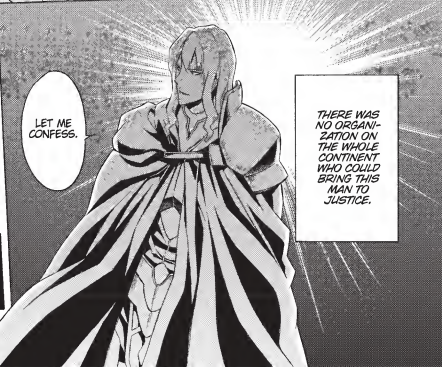
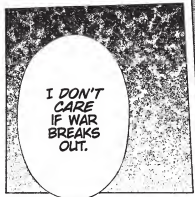
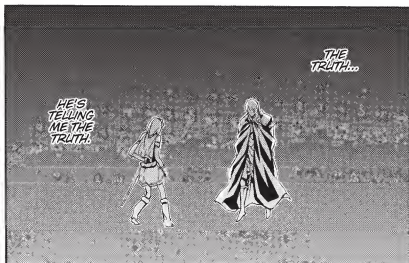


SHOVE

AH!



EVERY
ORGANIZATION
OF ANY
POLITICAL
POWER
HOLDS THE
DETERRENT
KNOWN AS
DEMON PACTS.

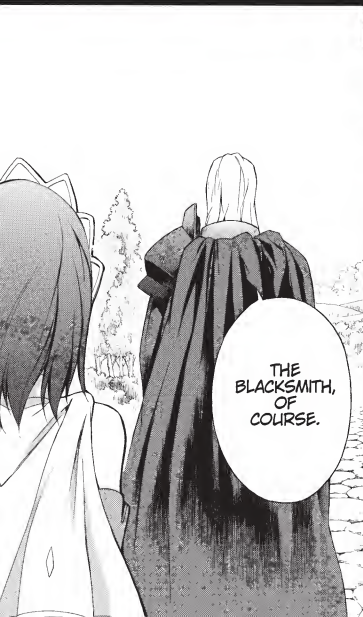


THIS
MAN
NEEDS
TO
DIE...!!



IN FACT,
I COULDN'T
CARE LESS IF
THE WHOLE
WORLD BUT
ME WAS
DESTROYED.

THIS
MAN...

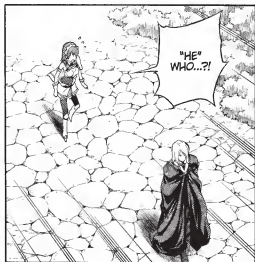


THE
BLACKSMITH,
OF
COURSE.



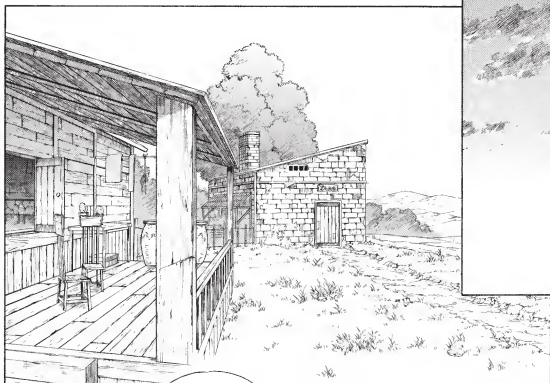
SHOW
ME
WHERE
HE IS,
WOMAN.

WHAT A
WASTE
OF
TIME.



"HE"
WHO...?!





Y-
YOU'RE...
HERE?!



AHH!
MISS
CECILY
?!



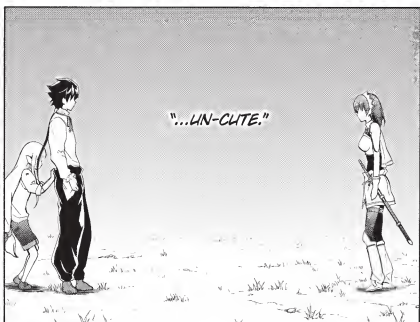
I'LL GO
GET HIM
AND MAKE
HIM
APOLOGIZE
TO YOU!!

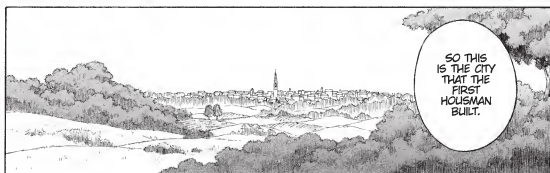
I'LL
MAKE HIM
KOWTOW
AND
EVERY-
THING!!

DASH!!

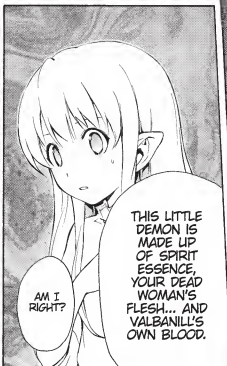
I...
I'LL GO
GET
LUKE,
RIGHT
NOW!

W-W-
WAIT
RIGHT
THERE!

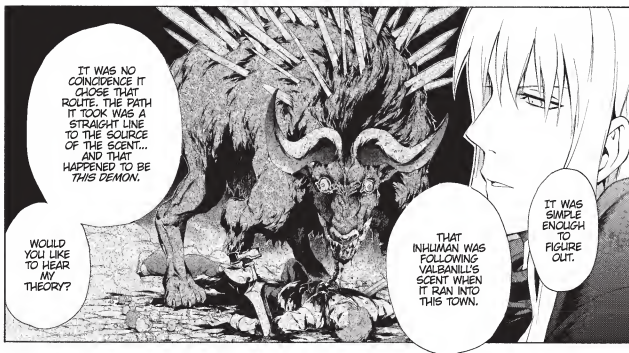








THIS LITTLE
DEMON IS
MADE UP
OF SPIRIT
ESSENCE,
YOUR DEAD
WOMAN'S
FLESH... AND
VALBANILL'S
OWN BLOOD.





THAT LEFT A
FEW DROPS
OF BLOOD ON
THE BLADE,
BLOOD THAT WAS
ABSORBED WHEN
LISA OAKWOOD
MADE HER
DEMON PACT.

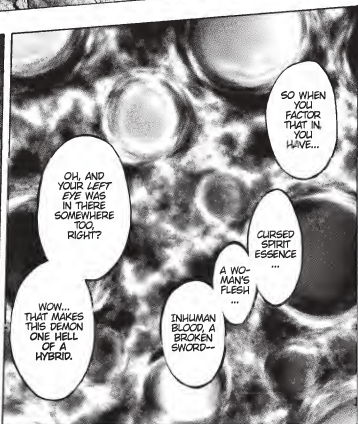
YOU SAY
YOUR FIRST
WORK WAS
SHATTERED BY
VALBANILL
THREE YEARS
AGO...

BUT I THINK
IT MANAGED
TO NICK
VALBANILL
JUST A LITTLE
BEFORE
IT BROKE.



LUKE,
IS HE
TELLING
THE
TRUTH?!

IS
THERE
REALLY
ALL
THAT IN
ME?!



OH, AND
YOUR LEFT
EYE WAS
IN THERE
SOMEWHERE
TOO,
RIGHT?

SO WHEN
YOU
FACTOR
THAT IN,
YOU
HAVE...

CURSED
SPIRIT
ESSENCE

A WO-
MAN'S
FLESH

INHUMAN
BLOOD, A
BROKEN
SWORD--

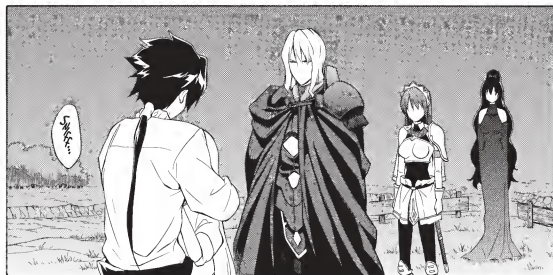
WOW...
THAT MAKES
THIS DEMON
ONE HELL
OF A
HYBRID.

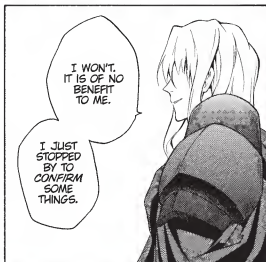


**THIS
DOESN'T
CHANGE
ANY-
THING!!**



**DON'T
TRY TO
HIDE IT!**





I WON'T.
IT IS OF NO
BENEFIT
TO ME.

I JUST
STOPPED
BY TO
CONFIRM
SOME
THINGS.



SIEG-
FRIED.

IF YOU
INTEND TO
MAKE THIS
INCIDENT
PUBLIC...

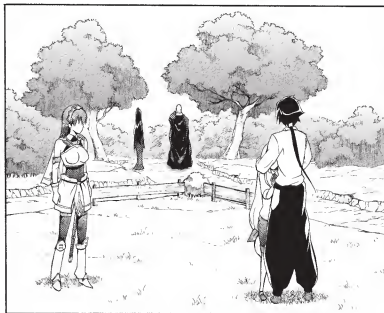


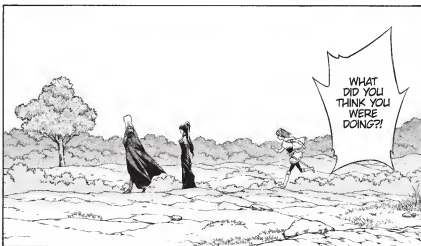
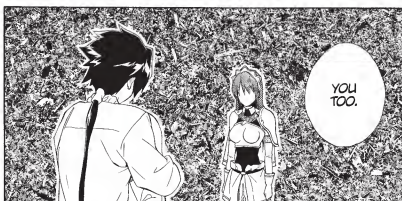
I WILL
NEVER
LET YOU
HAVE
LISA.

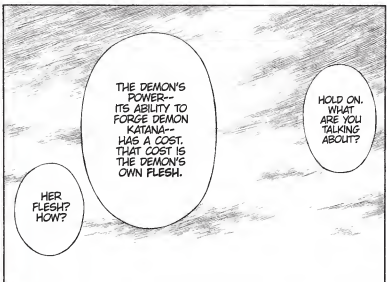
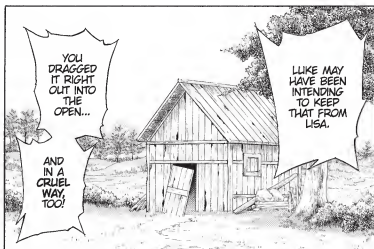
AND DO
NOT EVER
SHOW
YOUR FACE
HERE
AGAIN.

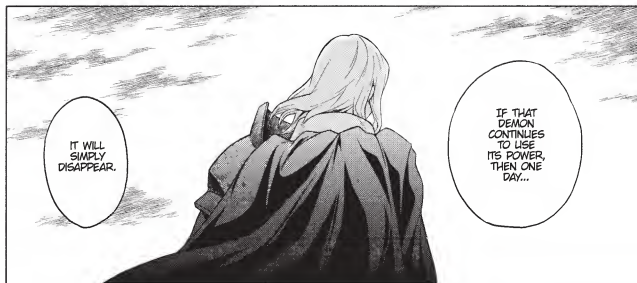
NOW.

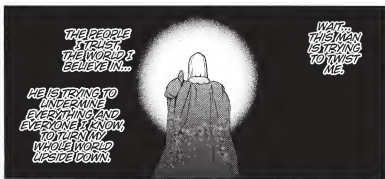
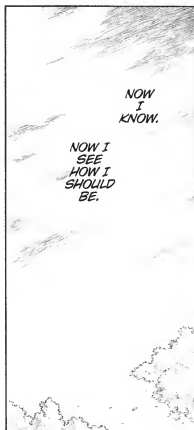
THEN
LEAVE.





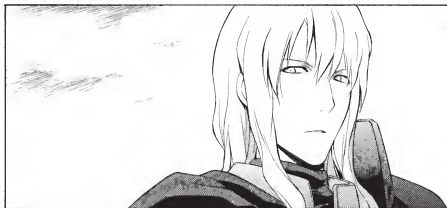




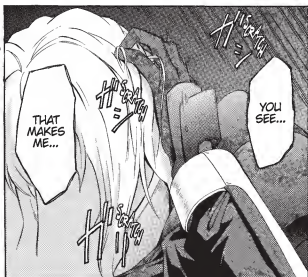
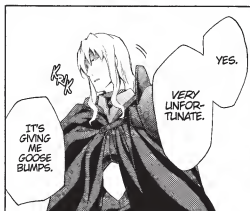


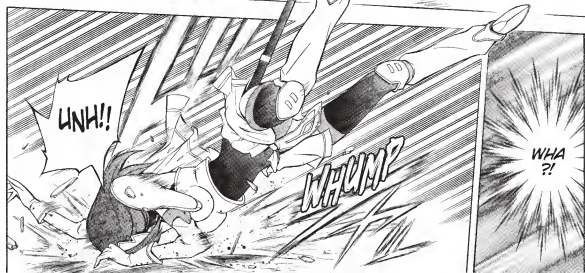


I TRUST
LUKE
AINSWORTH.



I HAVE
JUDGED
HIM TO BE
A MAN
WORTHY
OF MY
TRUST.



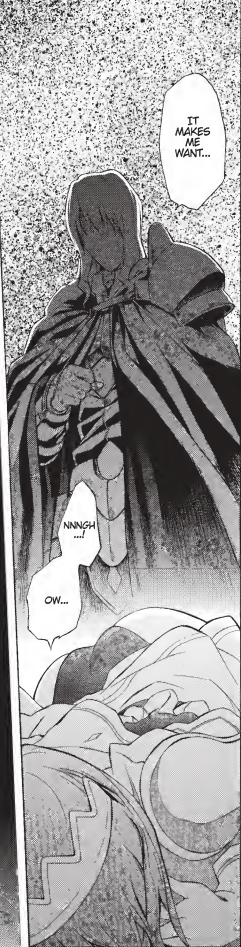




TO
MESS
YOU
UP.



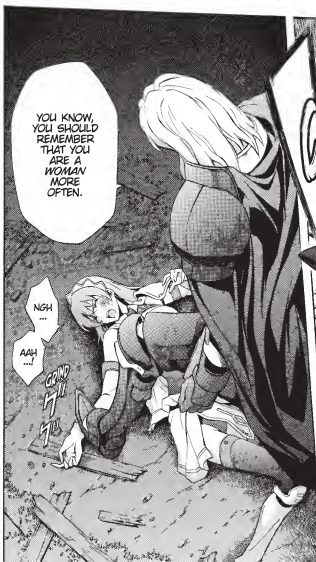
YANISL

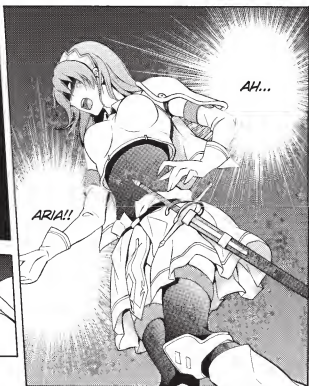


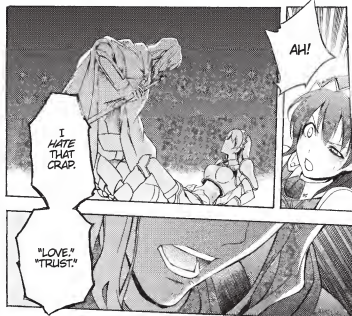
IT
MAKES
ME
WANT...

NNNGH
....

OW...











THERE
IS NO
GOD.

TRUST
IS AN
ILLUSION.

ALL
LIGHT
SOURS.





NOBODY
IS GOING
TO COME
AND
"SAVE"
YOU.

HE
WON'T.

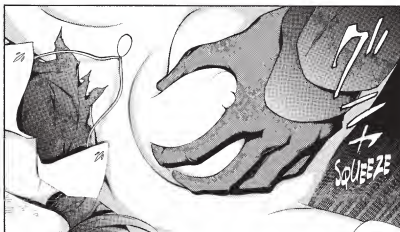
HE
WON'T
COME.

RIGHT NOW,
HE IS TOO
BUSY
HOLDING
HER IN HIS
ARMS.



BUT I--

HLINH,
YOU HAVE
A HOT BODY
FOR A
COUNTRY
HICK.

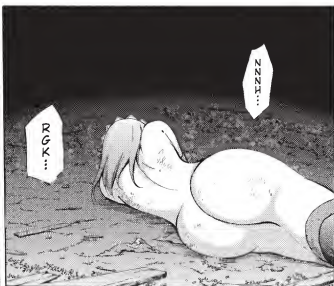


HOW-
EVER...









A black and white illustration of a rural scene. In the center, there is a small, weathered wooden barn with a gabled roof. To the left of the barn stands a large, leafy tree. The foreground is filled with dense, low-lying bushes and grass. In the background, there are more trees and a distant hill. A speech bubble is located in the upper right quadrant of the image.

SOMEBODY...
PLEASE
KILL THAT
MAN...

Chapter 22 ————— (Part 3)

*I DON'T WANT TO TELL ANYBODY...
ANYBODY... WHAT HAPPENED.*

*I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...
DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW.*

ESPECIALLY HIM--

*IF HE EVER FOUND OUT...
IT WOULD BE THE END OF EVERYTHING.*



 Chapter 22 (Part 3)





NO!!

AAH!





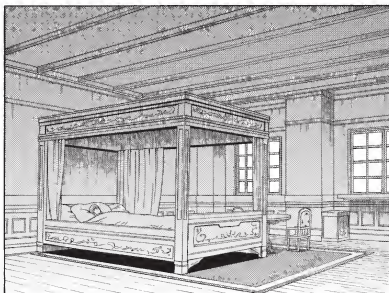
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ALL MY
TRAINING?
WHERE DID
MY DETER-
MINATION
TO FIGHT
GO?

HE PUSHED
ME DOWN...
BEAT ME...
AND I
COULD DO
NOTHING
TO STOP
HIM.



I AM
COMPLETELY...
LITTERLY...

POWERLESS...



THREE
DAYS
PASSED.



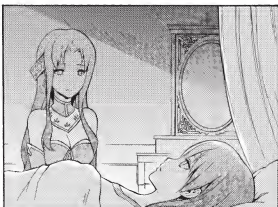
I COULDN'T
EAT, MY
STOMACH
REJECTING
ALL FOOD
ALMOST
BEFORE I
COULD
SWALLOW IT.

ROBBING ME
OF THE
DESIRE TO DO
ANYTHING.

MY RAGE
SLOWLY
BEGAN TO
TURN INTO
A BOTTOM-
LESS WELL OF
HELPLESS-
NESS...







BUT I DON'T
INTEND
TO STAY
THIS WAY.
NOT
FOREVER.

I...
I JUST
NEED
SOME
TIME
ALONE.

BECAUSE THE
FACT THAT I
AM A WOMAN
WAS SHOVED
IN MY FACE--
PAINFULLY
HUMILIATINGLY.

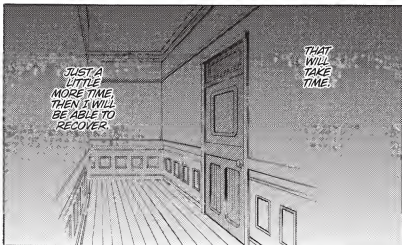
MY HEART
HAD GONE
INTO
HIDING.
WHY?

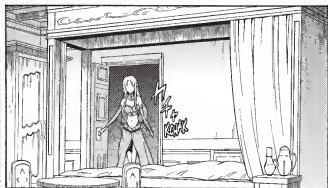
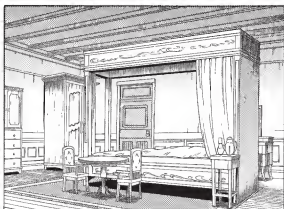
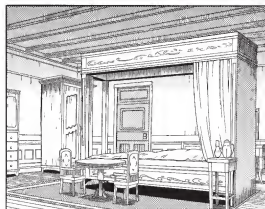
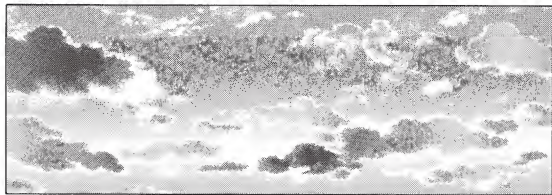


JUST A
LITTLE
MORE TIME
THEN I WILL
BE ABLE TO
RECOVER.

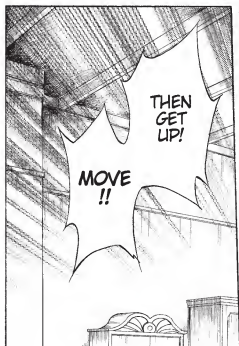
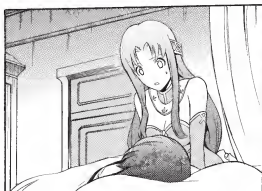
THAT
WILL
TAKE
TIME.

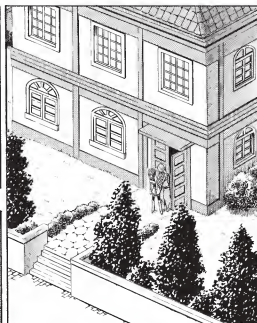
I NEED TO
LET THIS
MEMORY
FADE,
TO FIND
AND
GATHER THE
SCATTERED
PIECES
OF MY
COURAGE.



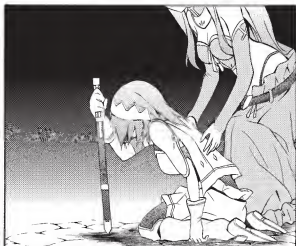








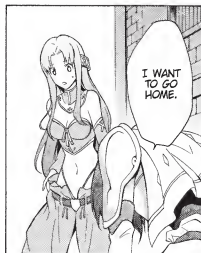
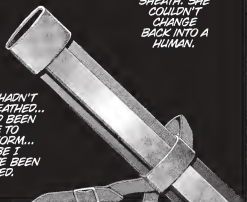
IF ONLY
HE HAD
NEVER
MADE THIS
SHEATH...



ARIA WAS IN
HER SWORD
FORM, INSIDE
OF THE
SHEATH. SHE
COULDN'T
CHANGE
BACK INTO A
HUMAN.

WHAT,
SO NOW I'M
GOING TO
START
ASSIGNING
BLAME?

IF SHE HADN'T
BEEN SHEATHED...
IF SHE'D BEEN
ABLE TO
TRANSFORM...
MAYBE I
WOULD'VE BEEN
SAVED.



I WANT
TO GO
HOME.

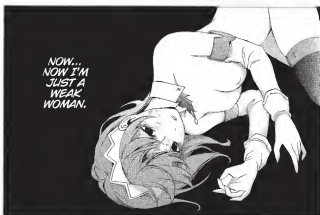


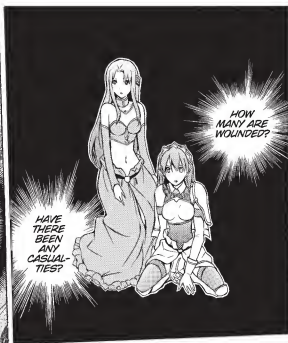
LNK
...

I USED TO
HAVE AN
INVULNERABLE
SENSE OF
CONFIDENCE...
WHERE
DID IT GO?

HOW
STUPID.
HOW
PATHETIC.











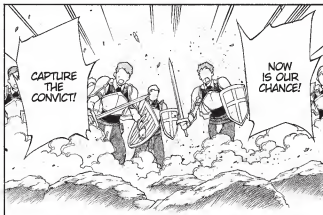
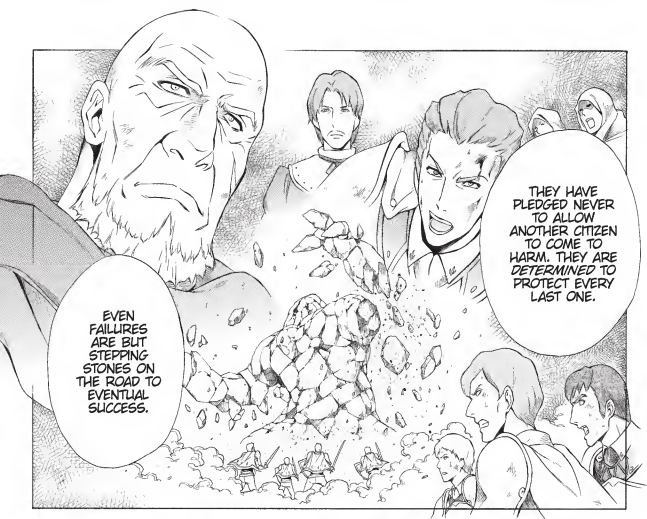


TAMAMU!!
WE DID IT!
WE BEAT IT!!

THERE IS STILL ONE LEFT!
DO NOT CELEBRATE JUST YET!

YAAAAH!!









ANOTHER
DEMON
FACT...?!



AAH!

CECILY!!



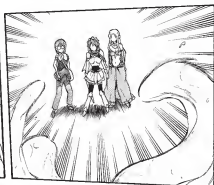
WHAT
THE
HELL?!

GAAAH
!!

DWAH
!!



HUH?





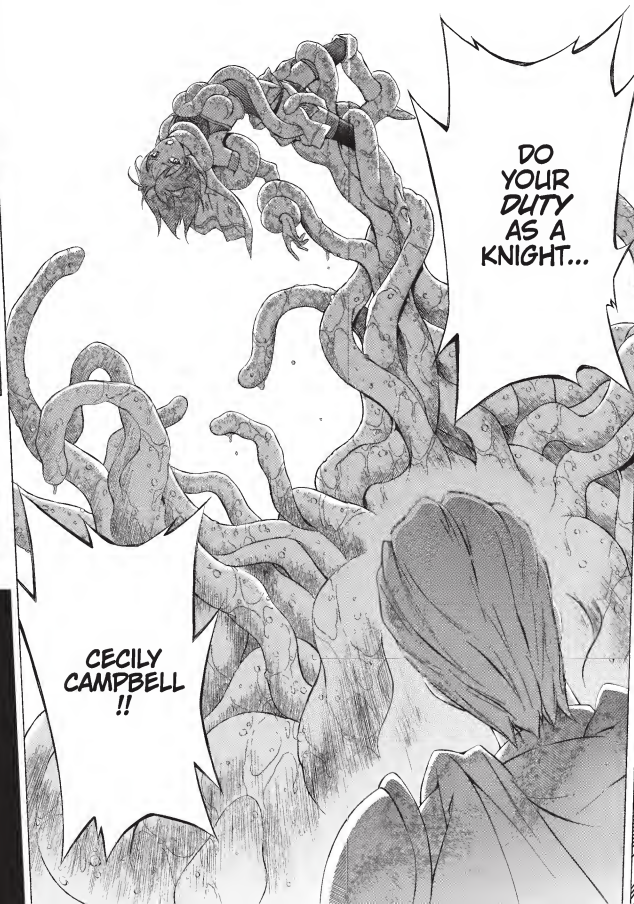




HE'S
RIGHT.

I...

I AM
CECILY
CAMPBELL..



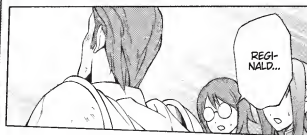
DO
YOUR
DUTY
AS A
KNIGHT...

CECILY
CAMPBELL
!!



TCH!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING,
JUST
HANGING
THERE?!



REG-
NALD...



DO YOU
EVEN
REMEMBER
WHAT
YOUR ONE
ADVANTAGE
IS?!

YOUR
DEMON
BLADE,
YOU
FOOL!!



I AM THE
KNIGHT,
CECILY
CAMPBELL!

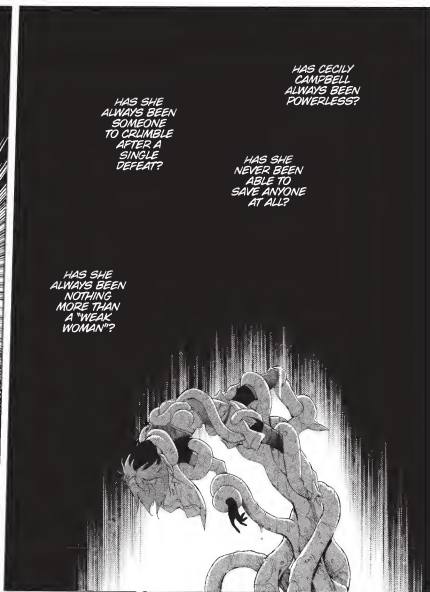
THAT'S
RIGHT...

I AM A
KNIGHT.

I AM A
MEMBER OF
THE PROUD AND
HONORABLE
KNIGHT CORPS
OF THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY OF
HOUSMAN.



NEVER!!

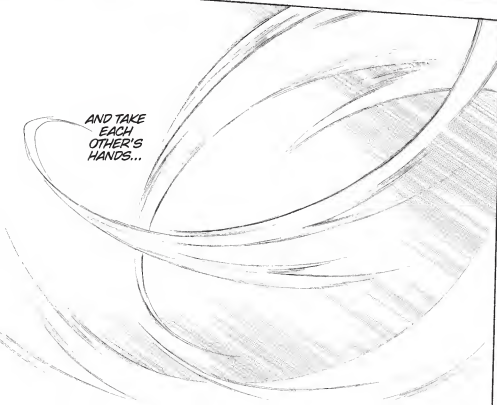
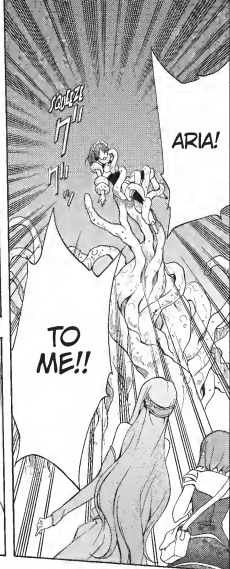


HAS CECILY
CAMPBELL
ALWAYS BEEN
POWERLESS?

HAS SHE
ALWAYS BEEN
SOMEONE
TO CRUMBLE
AFTER A
SINGLE
DEFEAT?

HAS SHE
NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO
SAVE ANYONE
AT ALL?

HAS SHE
ALWAYS BEEN
NOTHING
MORE THAN
A "WEAK
WOMAN"?

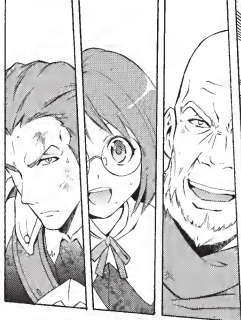




WE ARE
INVINCIBLE!!

WIND
!!

FWOOSH

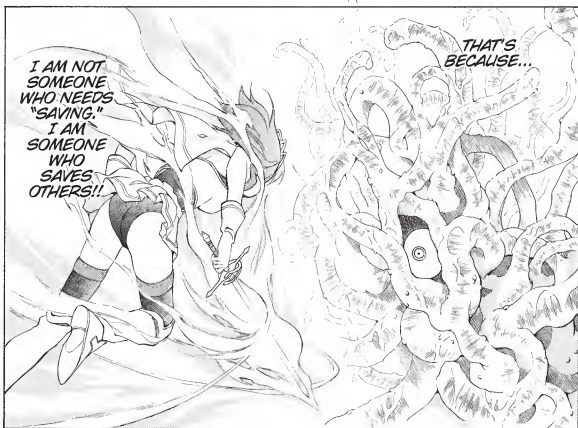


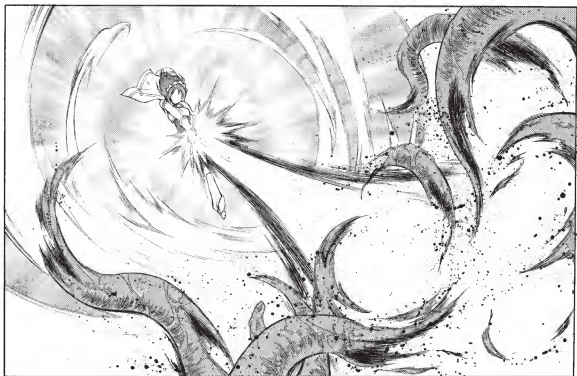


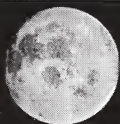
LIKE
WON'T
COME.

NOW
OR
EVER.

HE WON'T
BE THERE
TO SAVE
ME...



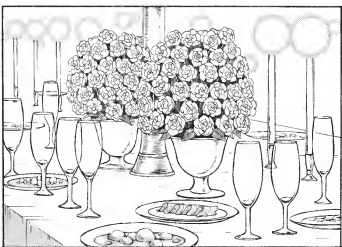
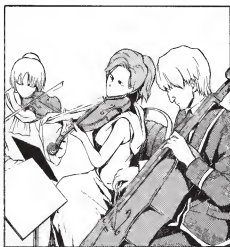
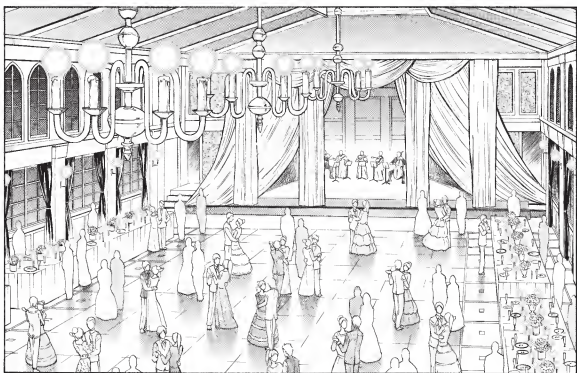




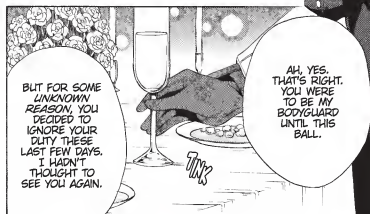
—THE NIGHT OF THE BALL—

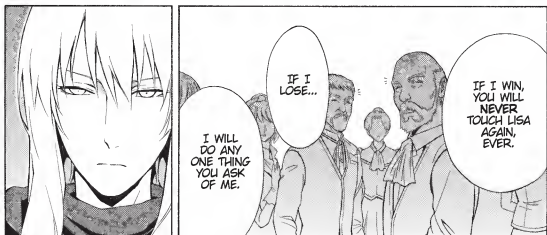
Chapter 23 Fool (Part 4)



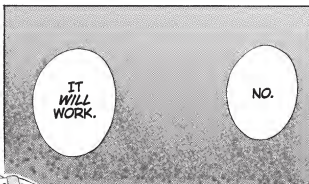


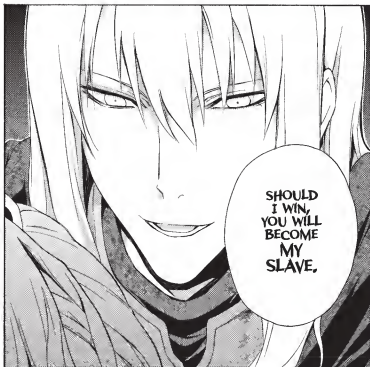
















**BUT
WITH
ME.**



**YOU WILL
BE
DUELING,
YES...**





IT SEEMS
EVEN THE
BLACKSMITH
CAME
TONIGHT.



HE
REALLY
CAME...!

STILL,
ARE YOU
HONESTLY
GOING TO
STAND IN
FOR THE
WOMAN IN
THIS DUEL?



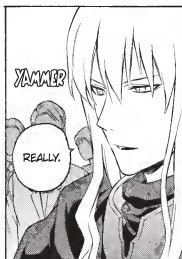
YES.
AND THIS
PRESENTS
AN
EXCELLENT
OPPORTU-
NITY...

WAIT, LET
ME GUESS.
IT'S ABOUT
MY "THEORY,"
WHICH I
MENTIONED
TO YOU THE
OTHER DAY.

BUT
WHY...?

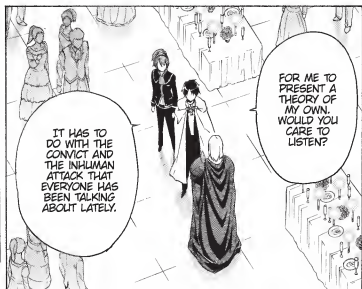
OH.

WHAT
HAS YOU
SO
UPSET?



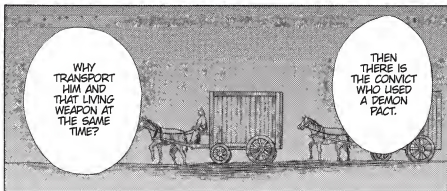
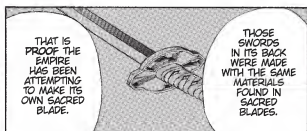
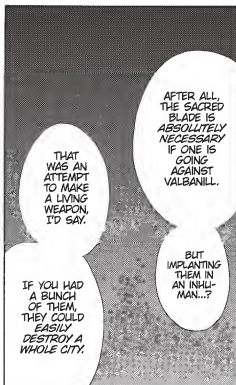
YAMMER

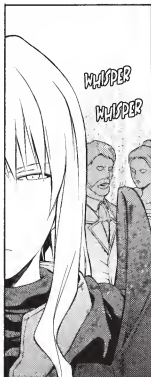
REALLY.



IT HAS TO
DO WITH THE
CONVICT AND
THE INHUMAN
ATTACK THAT
EVERYONE HAS
BEEN TALKING
ABOUT LATELY.

FOR ME TO
PRESENT A
THEORY OF
MY OWN,
WOULD YOU
CARE TO
LISTEN?





WHISPER
WHISPER

SERVING
AS A "MOCK
VALBANILL"
FOR YOU TO
TEST YOUR
BRAND NEW
WEAPON
AGAINST.

IT WAS ALL ONE
BIG EXPERIMENT
TO THE EMPIRE.
THAT CONVICT
WAS SET UP IN
CIRCUMSTANCES
WHERE HE COULD
AND WOULD USE
A DEMON PACT...



YOU STILL
DON'T
GET IT.



BUT IF YOU
WANT TO TELL
THAT TO THE
IMPERIAL ARMY
OR EVEN TO
THE CONTINEN-
TAL LEGAL
COUNCIL,
FEEL FREE.

YOU
HAVE
NO--

YOU SHOULD
KEEP YOUR
RIDICULOUS
FANTASIES
TO YOURSELF.



I
DESPISE
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
YOU.

NOW QUIT
BABBLING
ON ABOUT
YOUR LAME
EXCUSES
AND FIGHT
ME.



I'M
CHAL-
LENGING
YOU.





NOT
ON YOUR--



BUT I
HAVE
ONE
CONDI-
TION.

IF I WIN,
YOU WILL
GIVE ME
YOUR PET
DEMON TO
DISSECT.



VERY
WELL.
I
ACCEPT.



BUT THAT ISN'T
EVER, EVER, EVER
GONNA HAPPEN
IN A BAZILLION
YEARS!!

LISA?!



THE
DEMON
ITSELF
DOESN'T
SEEM TO
MIND.



ALL
RIGHT...

SIGH.



GO
AHEAD!

IF LUKE
LOSES,
YOU CAN DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
TO ME!!



IF I WIN,
YOU WILL
NEVER TOUCH
CECILY
CAMPBELL
AGAIN.

BUT I
HAVE A
CONDITION
OF MY
OWN.

WHAT...?



DID HE
REALLY
SAY WHAT
I THINK
HE DID...?

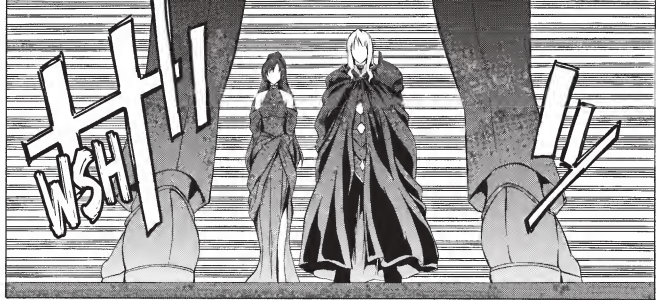
WAIT...

HUH?



WELL,
AREN'T
YOU THE
GALLANT
KNIGHT?

I ACCEPT
YOUR
TERMS.

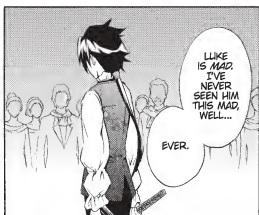




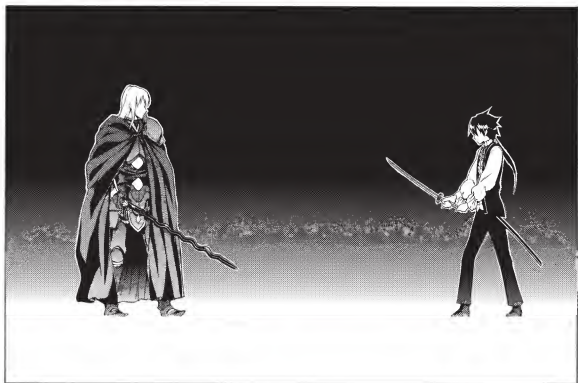
SHE
TOLD US
EVERY-
THING...



AND AS THE
ONE WHO MADE
ARIA'S SHEATH,
HE ALSO FEELS
RESPONSIBLE...



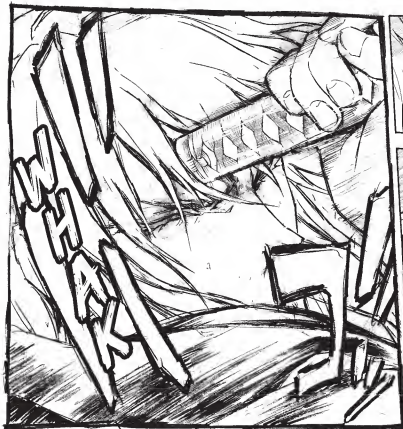


















NOW
LET ME
GOUGE
OUT YOUR
REMAINING
EYE!



GAH!



OH
REALLY
?

NOT BEFORE
I WRING
OUT EVERY
LAST DROP
OF BLOOD
FROM YOUR
BODY!!





HYAA-
AAAHH
!!!!



KLANG



WITH
ME
ENDING
YOUR
LIFE!!



ENOUGH
IS
ENOUGH!



LET'S
END
THIS!



LUKE
--!!



GRAB!!

CAPTAIN
SIEGFRIED!!

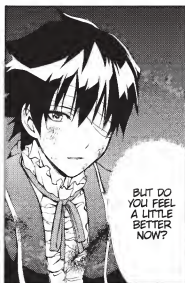
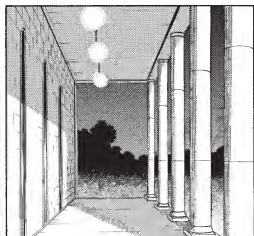
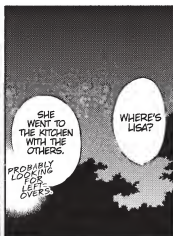
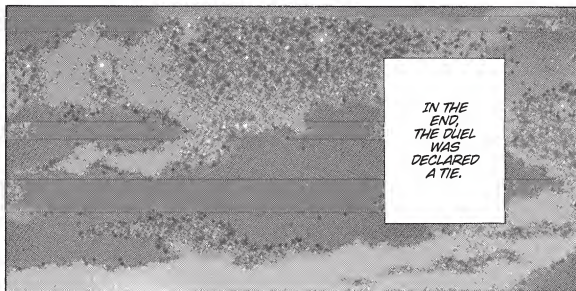
ENOUGH
!!
HOLD
!!!



POW!!

?!





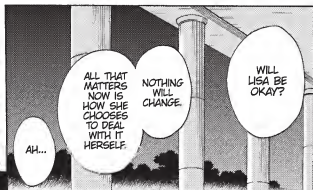


I'M
GLAD YOU
CAME,
LUKE.

TO BE
HONEST,
THAT DIDN'T
REALLY
MATTER
MUCH TO
ME
ANYMORE.



LUKE?
IS THERE
ANYTHING
I COULD
DO?



ALL THAT
MATTERS
NOW IS
HOW SHE
CHOOSES
TO DEAL
WITH IT
HERSELF.

NOTHING
WILL
CHANGE.

WILL
LISA BE
OKAY?

AH...



EVEN IF MY
IDEAL IS
SOMETHING
THAT NOT
EVERYONE IN
THE WORLD
CAN
ACCEPT...

I'M STILL
GOING TO
FOLLOW THE
PATH THAT I
BELIEVE IN.

STILL...

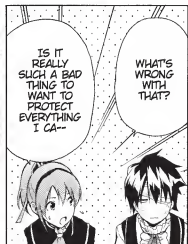


THERE YOU
GO AGAIN...
WHY DO YOU
SO LOVE
TRYING TO
TAKE ON THE
BURDENS OF
OTHERS?



IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

NEVER
MIND.



IS IT
REALLY
SUCH A BAD
THING TO
WANT TO
PROTECT
EVERYTHING
I CA--

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?







LIN-
CLITE...?

AREN'T
I...
AH...



I'LL
MAKE
YOU
FORGET
IT.



BUT
...!



THAT'S
AN
ORDER.

DANCE
WITH
ME.





YES,
SIR.

CAREFULLY...

HESITANTLY...
I TOOK
LUKE'S HAND.



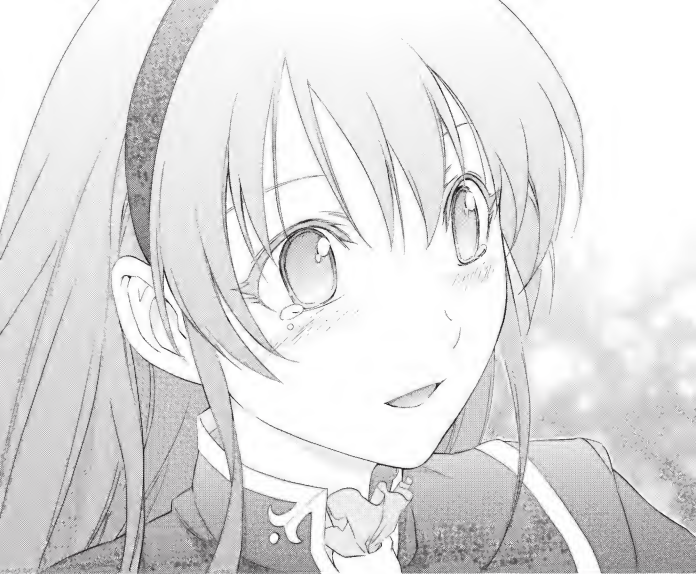
GENTLY,
HE PULLED
ME CLOSE.

I COULD
FEEL THE
BEAT OF
HIS HEART,
A PLEASANT
RHYTHM.

AND IN
THE PURE,
HUSHED
LIGHT
OF THE
MOON...

WE BEGAN
TO STEP
TOGETHER...

OUR OVERLAPPED
SHADOWS SLOWLY
BEGINNING TO
MOVE UNDER
THE CLEAR,
STARRY SKY.



I THINK I
MIGHT NOT
BE ABLE TO
GIVE UP MY
FEMININITY
AFTER ALL...

To be continued...

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH

art by KOTARO YAMADA / story by ISAO MIURA

Original Character Designs by LUNA

VOLUME 5

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

LETTERING
Roland Amago

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Shanti Whitesides

MANAGING EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOL. 5

©2011 Kotaro Yamada, ©2011 Isao Miura

Edited by MEDIA FACTORY.

First published in Japan in 2011 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

English translation rights reserved by Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
under the license from KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locals, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, or promotional use. For information on bulk purchases, please contact Macmillan Corporate & Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945 (ext 5442) or write specialmarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-626920-40-8

Printed in Canada

First Printing: July 2014

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: www.gomanga.com

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

